

display is displayed on the second display unit, the status information is displayed in a layered style, and the status information can also be identified in this case.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0015] The above and other objects, aspects, features and advantages of the present invention will become more apparent from the following detailed description when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which:

[0016] FIGS. 1A to 1D are outside views of terminal apparatuses in an embodiment of the present invention, FIG. 1A illustrating a flip-type portable telephone when a flip is in a closed state, FIG. 1B illustrating the flip-type portable telephone when a flip is in an opened state, FIG. 1C illustrating a folding-type portable telephone which is released from a folded state, or is in an opened state, and FIG. 1D illustrating the folding-type portable telephone in the folded state;

[0017] FIGS. 2A to 2D are diagrams illustrating specific examples of the display contents of each display unit, FIG. 2A showing a first display example of a first display unit, FIG. 2B showing second display example of the first display unit, FIG. 2C showing a display example of a second display unit, and FIG. 2D showing a display example of status information displayed on the second display unit;

[0018] FIG. 3 is a block diagram illustrating a configuration example of the portable telephone of the present embodiment;

[0019] FIG. 4 is a flowchart showing the example of the control operation of display contents on each screen of the portable telephone of the present embodiment;

[0020] FIG. 5 is a flowchart describing a specific example of the control operation of the display contents on each screen of the portable telephone of the present embodiment;

[0021] FIGS. 6A to 6C are specific examples of the transition of the display contents on each screen;

[0022] FIGS. 7A to 7D are diagrams describing specific examples of concomitant displays, FIG. 7A showing an example at the time of using videophone, FIG. 7B showing an example at the time of viewing an e-mail, FIG. 7C showing an example at the time of viewing a still image, and FIG. 7D showing an example at the time of playing a game; and

[0023] FIGS. 8A to FIG. 8E are outside views of terminal apparatuses of another embodiment of the present invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0024] Embodiments of the present invention will now be described with reference to the drawings. It is to be noted however that the technical scope of the present invention is not limited to these embodiments but covers the invention as defined in claims and equivalents thereof.

[0025] Hereinafter, the case of a folding-type portable telephone (including PHS (Personal Handyphone System)) is described as an example of a terminal apparatus of the present invention.

[0026] FIGS. 1A to 1D are outside views of portable telephones (including PHS) in an embodiment of the present invention; FIG. 1A and FIG. 1B illustrate a flip-type portable telephone; and FIGS. 1C and 1D illustrate a folding-type portable telephone. FIG. 1A illustrates the flip-type portable telephone when a flip 4 is in a closed state. In this state, a main screen 1 and a portion of a sub-screen 2 can be visually recognized. On the main screen 1, a menu for operating the portable telephone is displayed, and contents corresponding to the selected menu are displayed. As examples of the contents, e-mails, Web contents, still images, moving images, setting modification screen of the portable telephone and others can be cited.

[0027] When the flip is in a closed state, a portion of the sub-screen 2 can also be visually recognized. On the portion which can be visually recognized, so-called status information, such as a remaining level of a battery, an radio wave receiving condition, a date, an icon for indicating a setting status of the manner mode (a mode which notifies of an incoming call by means other than sound (vibration, light emitting and others)), an icon for indicating a setting status of an alarm, an icon for indicating presence of unanswered incoming calls (phone call, e-mail, facsimile and others), an icon for indicating presence of voice messages (messages left on an answering machine) and an icon for indicating being in the internet connection status, is displayed.

[0028] FIG. 1B is a diagram illustrating a state that the flip 4 is opened by moved to a direction of an arrow of FIG. 1A. When the flip 4 is in the opened state, whole of the sub-screen 2 covered by the flip 4 can be identified. The sub-screen 2 displays the status information and operation keys and is a touch panel. The operation keys are varied depending on the display contents of the main screen 1. The status information and operation keys displayed on the sub-screen are specifically described in FIG. 2. The flip can be closed by moved to a direction of an arrow of FIG. 1B.

[0029] Therefore, a user who utilizes the portable telephone of FIG. 1A and FIG. 1B can input instructions to the portable telephone by touching the operation keys which are varied depending on the display contents of the main screen 1. The status information can be identified regardless of opened or closed states of the flip.

[0030] When the flip 4 is in the opened state, input buttons 3 disposed on the flip 4 are revealed. The input buttons 3 are used for inputting details of the instruction from the user when selecting a portable telephone operation menu and when inputting telephone numbers or e-mail addresses at the time of transmission, and there are a power button (double as a call ending button), a call starting button, dial number buttons, a wrong input canceling button (clear button) and others. In addition, the portable telephone of the present embodiment is also provided with a speaker (not shown), a camera (not shown) which takes images from the own terminal (face of oneself) when videophone is used, a microphone (not shown), a communication antenna (not shown) and a photography camera (not shown) and can perform voice-only calls and calls based on the videophone function using voices and images, reception of the Web contents, transmission and reception of e-mails, shooting and viewing of still images or moving images and others.

[0031] FIG. 1C is a diagram illustrating a folding-type portable telephone which is released from the folded state, or